



Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy  
Floor Statement in Support of H.R. 2763, the *Small Business Innovation Research and Small  
Business Technology Transfer Improvements Act*  
October 11, 2017

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 2763, the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Improvements Act, which will modernize two programs that provide federal funding to small, technologically-advanced firms to research and develop innovative products.

I am proud to have co-sponsored this legislation with Congressman Steve Knight, and I am encouraged that my colleagues on the Small Business Committee and the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee on both sides of the aisle support the bill.

For decades, American innovation and ingenuity has bolstered our economic growth and solidified our country's status as a global leader in technology. And, for more than 30 years, the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs have provided a critical source of funding to small businesses that engage in research and development. These initiatives were established to help spur innovation and job creation throughout the country.

Since the inception of the programs, more than \$40 billion dollars has been awarded to small innovative firms to address our nation's most important research and development challenges. Because of the high-risk nature of their ventures, SBIR and STTR grantees receive R&D funding that might otherwise be unavailable in the private sector.

As a direct result of the federal investment in these programs, breakthroughs have been made in a wide range of sectors, including agriculture, defense, energy, and health care. In turn, these discoveries have generated tremendous economic growth and job opportunities across the country—including in central Florida. For many research companies in my district, these two programs serve as a gateway to the federal contracting field.

That is why I am honored to have co-sponsored this bipartisan legislation. The final bill reflects bipartisan compromises and input from both committees of jurisdiction. Most importantly, it includes many provisions focused on developing innovative products that support important national priorities and that can be sold on the commercial market.

To improve oversight of the program, the bill requires the Small Business Administration to submit an annual report to Congress no later than December 31st of each year. This will enable us to better account for the use of funds and to better assess the progress of SBIR and STTR initiatives at participating agencies.

Another provision makes permanent the pilot program that establishes the Civilian Agency Commercialization Readiness program, which allows up to 10 percent of agency administrative dollars for sequential Phase II awards to eligible businesses.

Finally, the bill includes an amendment that I authored to require participating federal agencies to take additional steps to educate small firms about the SBIR and STTR programs and to encourage more small firms to apply for funding.

After more than a decade of fits and starts with these two programs, H.R. 2763 will make program improvements and provide much-needed certainty to small businesses seeking to commercialize. By authorizing the administrative fee to run these programs for an additional five years beyond its current authorization, Congress is taking proactive steps to give small firms the confidence they need to continue developing innovative products.

I respectfully ask my colleagues to vote for this bill.

Thank you and I reserve the balance of my time.

[Following debate on H.R. 2763]

Mr. Speaker, supporting our entrepreneurs and small businesses is a top priority for both sides of the aisle. Our bill will make it easier for small firms that receive SBIR and STTR awards to bring their products to market and achieve commercial success.

The SBIR and STTR programs are also critical to our economy as they support our nation's job creators and ensure that our country continues to produce cutting-edge research and development. This ingenuity is what makes our country a global economic powerhouse.

These programs—while successful—can be improved. The bill before us is a step in the right direction insofar as it will ensure that all federal agencies are enhancing efforts to help more small businesses obtain SBIR and STTR funding and bring their innovative products to market.

Therefore, I respectfully urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

Thank you and I yield back the balance of my time.